

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 AF-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSO-00

NSCE-00 DRC-01 /171 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1904

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5883

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR UN AS XF

SUBJ: POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UN MIDDLE
EAST EMERGENCY FORCE

REF: CANBERRA 5861

MELBOURNE FOR AMB GREEN

1. DFA (PEACHEY, ACTING HEAD, DEFENSE DIVISION, DFA)
CALLED IN EMBOFF OCT 29 TO REVIEW STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN
PLANNING ON POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO UN EMERGENCY FORCE
(REFTEL.

2. ALTHOUGH, AS OF 0400 GMT OCT 29, ACCORDING TO PEACHEY,
NO REQUEST RECEIVED FROM UN, AUSTRALIAN PLANNING HAS
CONTINUED TO DEVELOP. AUSTRALIANS NOTE THAT DEVELOPING
TENDENCY AT UN TO AVOID CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EITHER WARSAW
PACT OR NATO COUNTRIES MAY MAKE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT
ESSENTIAL IF UN FORCE IS TO BE CONSTITUTED QUICKLY.
AUSTRALIAN CHIEFS OF STAFF MET OVER PAST WEEKEND AND
AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET SENDING QTE MECHANIZED
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COMPANY GROUP END QTE SUPPORTED BY COMPOSITE SQUADRON

OF SIX IROQUOIS HELICOPTERS AND THREE CARIBOU TRANS-
PORTS. GROUP WOULD HAVE 14 APC'S AND WOULD HAVE TOTAL
STRENGTH OF ABOUT 500. PEACHEY SAID THAT AUSTRALIA
COULD MOVE PERSONNEL TO MIDDLE EAST, USING RAAF C-130'S
AND QANTAS CHARTER AIRCRAFT, BUT MOVEMENT OF HEAVY
EQUIPMENT WOULD TAKE LONGER AS IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE
TO BE BY SEA. PEACHEY NOTED GENERAL U.S. OFFER OF
ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING UNEF CONTINGENTS BUT ADDED
HE IS NOT YET IN POSITION TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE.

3. SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO AMBASSADOR
PLIMSOLL IN WASHINGTON FOR HIS INFORMATION. HOWEVER,
PLIMSOLL HAS NO AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO SPECIFIC ARRANGE-
MENTS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT. PEACHEY ADDED THAT LABOR
GOVERNMENT FEELS QUITE FREE TO CONSIDER SENDING AUS-
TRALIAN CONTINGENT OVERSEAS DESPITE TRADITIONAL LABOR
OPPOSITION TO STATIONING OF TROOPS ABROAD, SINCE LABOR
PLATFORM SINCE 1971 HAS SUPPORTED OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT
OF FORCES UNDER UN AUSPICES OR AS PART OF PEACE-KEEPING
OPERATION. AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE PLANNERS HAVE TOLD DATT
THAT THEY WILL GIVE HIM THEIR AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS OVER
AND ABOVE THEIR OWN CAPACITIES WHEN PRIME MINISTER
RECEIVES AND APPROVES UN REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN
CONTINGENT.
GREEN

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